

Spanish

Why should I choose Spanish?

Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world with over 500 million speakers. It is the official language of 21 countries and is spoken in many more.

Spanish can provide a gateway to learn other languages being a Romance language, it has many similarities to other European languages. It is a phonetic language, it's pronunciation is relatively straightforward.

Certain third level colleges in Ireland require you to have a language such as Spanish for entry.

With an ever increasing presence in the global market, emerging economies in the Americas mean that the chance of work and business opportunities from Spanish knowledge is increasing.

When travelling, knowing the local language can greatly enhance one's experience, allowing you greater understanding and appreciation of culture, history and local environment.

Hispanic culture is all around us - music, sport, TV etc. so you probably already know more Spanish than you think!!

What will I Learn?

Students of Spanish will develop their communicative competence in the elements of Listening, Reading, spoken production, Spoken interaction and Writing. As a result, they communicate with increasing independence, confidence and creativity.

Students will develop critical awareness of how meaning is organised and conveyed by the structures and vocabulary of the target language and increase cultural awareness of the countries where the target language is spoken.

Students will learn language to use in a variety of topics, such as greetings, school, home and local area, directions, future plans and past holidays and experiences. Our aim is to foster a love for language learning, an essential life skill.

How will I learn it?

There is a communicative approach to language teaching, with lessons conducted largely in Spanish, supported by careful study and practice of grammar and vocabulary.

Students work in a variety of ways in class to progress their language learning, such as: class oral work, pair work, group work, acting out dialogues, vocabulary learning, playing language games, listening to and watching recorded material, songs, dictation and using interactive computer resources.

How is it assessed?

The Junior Cycle exam is a common level exam.

You will:

Sit an exam at the end of your 3rd year which will test the 3 skills of Reading, Writing and Listening (worth 90%).

Complete 2 CBAs (Classroom Based Assessments) during your 2nd and 3rd year and an Assessment Task at the end of 3rd year (worth 10% of your final grade).

How will I know how I'm getting on?

Your teacher will inform you how you are progressing and what you can do to further improve on your language learning journey.

You will engage in Assessment for Learning whereby your teacher will help you look at your own work and set targets and you will also help your classmates to find ways to improve their work too.

What are the benefits of studying Spanish?

Language learning also broadens students' horizons and enables them to develop a lifelong learning skill for education, leisure and work, and to develop a positive attitude towards other languages and cultures.

What future careers is the study of Spanish useful for?

There is a huge range of career opportunities available to you with languages, such as Interpreting, Journalism, Law, Marketing, Medicine, Publishing, Retailing, Teaching, Tourism and Translation.